

# County Trends



## Grand

December 2002

### A Local Economic Perspective

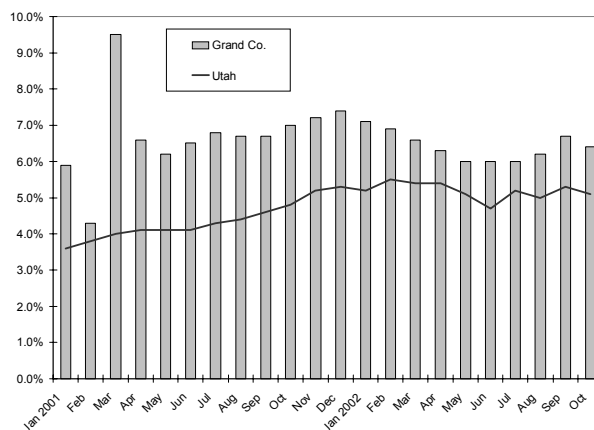
#### Grand County 2002 - Still Growing, Slowly

Grand County's economy slowly expanded during the first half of 2002. However, in light of all the dire predictions concerning the travel and tourism industry following 9-11, that there has been growth at all is remarkable. Year-over jobs grew in both the first and second quarters of 2002. This growth has resulted in the county's unemployment rate falling slightly. The most current unemployment rate, October 2002, was 6.4 percent, a 0.6 percentage point drop from the 7.0 percent in October 2001.

#### Where the Jobs Are

Year-over nonfarm employment crept up in Grand County during the first two quarters of 2002. Non-farm jobs rose a scant 0.4 percent in the first quarter. Second quarter jobs rose 1.9 percent. Goods production jobs fell in mining and construction. Mining jobs dropped as oil and gas exploration projects were completed. Construction shows growth in new residential and commercial building jobs, but a sharp decline in special trades. Manufacturing jobs showed a slight increase, primarily in printing activities.

#### Seasonally Adjusted GrandCounty Unemployment Rates

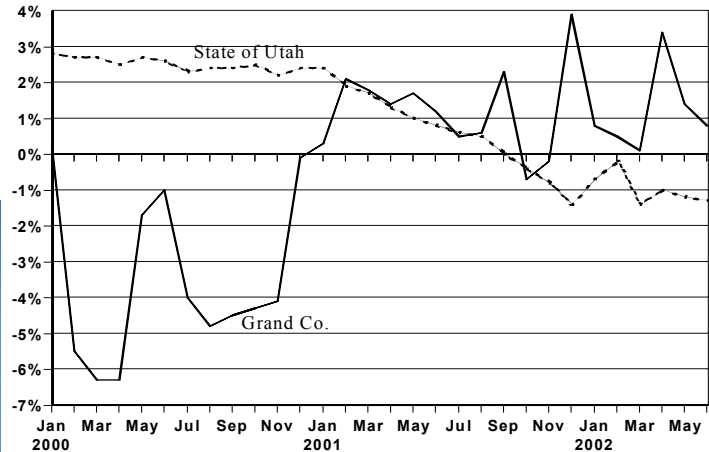


Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.





### Year-Over Change in Grand County Employment



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

## To the Point

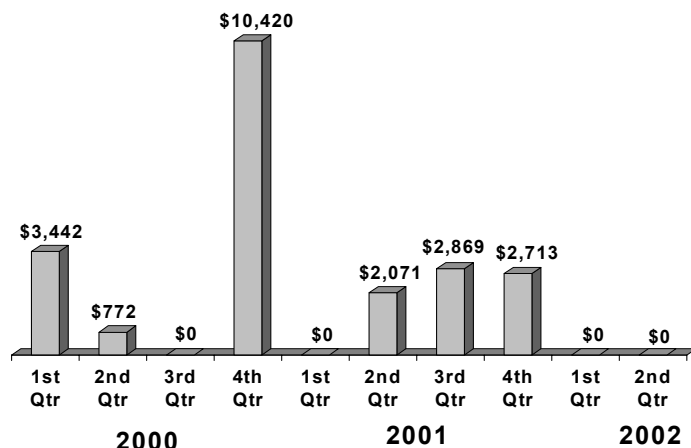
**Grand County managed to see scant growth during the first half of 2002. Remarkably, this occurred in spite of the challenges related to travel and tourism as a result of the 9-11 terrorist attacks. While not robust, Grand County has managed to keep its economy moving forward. As the recession wanes, Grand County should see stronger growth.**

Among service production industries, year-over data for the first half of 2002 show that a few jobs were added in transportation, education, health care, and government. Jobs in transportation were added for air services, trucking, and pipelines. Private education establishments added jobs, as did hospital and social assistance. Federal and local governments also added jobs. Federal land management and recreation related jobs increased. Local government administration also added positions. Retail jobs rose at food stores, but these gains were offset by losses at gas stations, clothing, and sporting goods stores. Accommodations and food services also added jobs, but recreation related jobs were down.

### ***Construction Inactive***

Year-over construction activity, as measured by permit authorizations, showed no activity in the first or second quarters of 2002 for residential, nonresidential, and renovations work.

## Grand County Total Construction Permit Valuation



(Thousands of dollars)

Source: Utah Bureau of Economic & Business Research.



## Sales Hang on to Gains

Year-over gross taxable retail sales rose robustly in the first quarter (7.2%), but scratched out a miniscule gain (0.3%) in the second quarter of 2002. Retail sales, which account for 52% of total sales, improved at eating and drinking places, specialty shops, and general merchandise stores. Communication sales also rose. Services sales dropped as repair and business service sales slumped. Lodging sales were up during the first half of 2002.

## Outlook for the Rest of 2002

Grand County will see scant growth during the rest of the year. The initial boost to travel in the first quarter by visitors driving to destinations like Moab will be hard to sustain. The revival of overseas visitors and long-distance domestic visitors will slowly recover. Still, Grand County has been resilient during this recession and as the U.S. economy gradually improves, the outlook for Grand County will also brighten.

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# Quick Facts

## October 2002

### Unemployment Rate

Grand County	6.4%
Utah	5.2%
U.S.	5.6%

## June 2002 Change from Previous Year

### Job Growth

Grand County	0.8%
Utah	-1.3%
U.S.	-1.1%

## 2nd Qtr 2002 Change from Previous Year

### Construction Values

Grand County	0.0%
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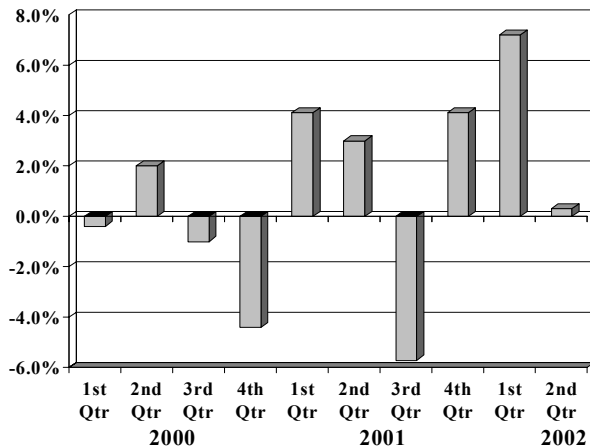
### Sales

Grand County	0.3%
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Source: Utah Dept of Workforce Services,  
Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
Utah Tax Commission,  
Bureau of Econ & Business Research.

**For more economic information about Grand County see:  
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/County.asp>**

## Year-Over Change in Grand County Gross Taxable Sales



Source: Utah Tax Commission.

*The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.*

# What's Up? <sup>4</sup>

- The U.S. Department of Energy will initiate a complete Environmental Impact Statement concerning the Atlas Mill tailings. The report will delay until 2004 a recommendation on the course of action to be taken concerning the 13-million tons of uranium.
- Castle Valley received funds from the Community Impact Board. \$90,000 for construction of a 2,500 square-foot, fire station, and \$195,000 will be used to build a 1,600 square-foot town hall.

**For more economic events, see:**

**<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/eastern/grand/grandee.pdf>**



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### **Equal Opportunity Employment Program**

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128



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